#### PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the: INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY PCT Lawrence Y D Ho & Associates Pte Ltd 30 Bideford Road WRITTEN OPINION OF THE #07-01Thongsia Building INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY Singapore 229922 (PCT Rule 43bis.1) Date of mailing 2 4 MAY 2005 (day/month/year) Applicant's or agent's file reference FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below 1008P005PCTf International application No. International filing date (day/month/year) Priority date (day/month/year) PCT/SG2005/000089 22 March 2005 8 April 2004 International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC Int. Cl. 7 B05C 17/02 Applicant ERH, Poh Soon This opinion contains indications relating to the following items: Box No. I Basis of the opinion Box No. II Priority Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement Box No. VI Certain documents cited Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application **FURTHER ACTION** If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1 bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered. If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later. For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220. 3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220. Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AU Authorized Officer AUSTRALIAN PATENT OFFICE PO BOX 200, WODEN ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA A. ALI E-mail address: pct@ipaustralia.gov.au Telephone No. (02) 6283 2607 Facsimile No. (02) 6285 3929

# WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

PCT/SG2005/000089

Box	k No. I	Basis of the opinion	
1.		egard to the <b>language</b> , this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.	
	L th	his opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into e following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of ternational search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).	
2.		egard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the d invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:	
	a. typ	e of material	
		a sequence listing	
		table(s) related to the sequence listing	
	b. for	mat of material	
		in written format	
		in computer readable form	
	c. tim	e of filing/furnishing	
		contained in the international application as filed.	
	<u> </u>	filed together with the international application in computer readable form.	
	L_	furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.	
3.	fil	addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been ed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.	
4. Additional comments:			
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		nd explanations supporting such statement	MARKET AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY
1. Statement			
No	velty (N)	Claims 4-5, 7-12	YES
		Claims 1-3, 6	NO
Inv	ventive step (IS)	Claims 7-12	YES
		Claims 1-6	NO
Ind	lustrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-12	YES
		Claims	NO

Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial

#### 2. Citations and explanations:

Box No. V

- 1. US 3933415
- 2. WO 2003/082479
- 3. NL 8301130

#### Novelty (N) Claims 1-3, 6

Citation 1 discloses all the features of claims 1-3, 6. The citation discloses an edging device for painting into corners, along edges, or along adjacent surfaces where paint is only desired on one of the surfaces. Figure 9 illustrates an edger roller with a truncated conical sponge applicator. The roller includes a coupler end, a distal end, and a paint absorbable member between the two ends. A circular sealing plate at the coupler end and a circular plate at the distal end are disclosed in column 7, lines 35-50 and figure 9. A foraminous shaft to receive the paint is provided between the plates and the paint flows from the openings on the shaft into the sponge applicator (column 7, lines 10-14, 40-42). A shield is also provided at the distal end of the roller whereby the straight edge of the shield is pressed against the painting surface and prevents any paint or paint splatter from marking the adjacent wall or surface.

### Inventive Step (IS) Claims 1-6

Claims 1-3, 6 as above.

Claims 1-6 do not involve an inventive step when Citation 2 is combined with Citation 3. Citation 2 discloses all the features of claims 1-6 except for the provision of a circular integral guard. See figure 6 and pages 2 and 6. Citation 3 discloses a frustoconical-shaped paint roller with a contact ring on the coupler end. This ring prevents the paint absorbable member from making contact with an adjacent surface. See the abstract and figure 1. It would be obvious to a person skilled in the art (PSA) to combine Citations 2 and 3 which would then disclose all the features of claims 1-6.

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Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
The following de	fects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
a) Claim 4 is n the description,	ot totally clear because the claim states that the chamber is "assessable" by a closable inlet. Based on it appears the term "assessable" was intended to be "accessible".
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